

Local Transportation Enhancements (TE) Program

Statutory Authority: § [85.026](#), 23 USC 101

Admin. Rule: N/A

Program objective:

To promote activities that would “enhance” the surface transportation system. Program funds are intended to accomplish something “above and beyond” what is normally done on highway projects. The Local Transportation Enhancements (TE) Program is designed to fund projects that enhance traditional highway facilities and promote multi-modal activities. The Local TE program is intended to promote the development of a range of activities that complement -- or enhance -- a project or an area served by a transportation project

Program eligibility:

Projects must meet federal and state requirements. Local governments with taxing authority, state agencies and Indian tribes are eligible for funding. Projects costing \$100,000 or more that involve construction are eligible for funding, as are non-construction projects costing \$25,000 or more. Additionally, the project must be usable when it is completed and not staged so that additional money is needed to make it a useful project. A project sponsor must pay for a project and then seek reimbursement for the project from the state. Federal funds will provide up to 80% of project costs, while the sponsor must provide at least the other 20%.

Under TEA-21, the Enhancements Program funds the following twelve categories of eligible activities:

- Provision of facilities for pedestrians and bicycles;
- Provision of safety and educational activities for pedestrians and bicyclists;
- Acquisition of scenic easements and scenic or historic sites;
- Scenic or historic highway programs, including the provision of tourist and welcome centers;
- Landscaping and other scenic beautification;
- Historic preservation;
- Rehabilitation and operation of historic transportation buildings, structures or facilities;
- Preservation of abandoned railway corridors;
- Control and removal of outdoor advertising;
- Archaeological planning and research;
- Mitigation of water pollution due to highway runoff or reduction of vehicle caused wildlife mortality;
- Establishment of transportation museums.

A transportation enhancement project must also meet both of the following federal criteria:

- Meet the criteria for one of the above 12 categories as described in federal guidelines;
- Relate to surface transportation.

Application cycle:

Projects are solicited in even numbered years with applications available in January and due in April. Two years of funding is made available to projects for the three fiscal years following the calendar year in which projects are selected. For example, in 2002 projects are developed for FY 2003-2005 funding. Funding for the TE program is on a competitive basis with a 12-person committee ranking projects and making funding recommendations to the Wisconsin Department of Transportation Secretary.

Note: Because of the similarities between the Local TE and STP-D program (see [STP-D program](#)) objectives and eligibility criteria, applications and funding awards for both programs are done concurrently.

Annual Federal Amount Appropriated: \$6,730,200